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Life-Saving Legislation on Cardiomyopathy Introduced

Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation Applauds Reps Frank Pallone and Andy Kim on Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act

TENAFLY, N.J. — December, 2023 — The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is taking an active role in supporting the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Risk Assessment, and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act (H.R. 6829), which highlights cardiomyopathy, a chronic and potentially life-threatening heart disease. The bill, introduced by Reps. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06) and Andy Kim (D-NJ-03), calls for the establishment of surveillance research and the development of educational materials on cardiomyopathy.

"Cardiomyopathy is often a silent disease and may be difficult to detect without symptoms," said Gina Peattie, executive director of the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation. "By providing educational materials on cardiomyopathy to families and schools, this legislation has the potential to save the lives of many children at risk of sudden cardiac death."

The Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Risk Assessment, and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as patient advocacy and health professional organizations, to develop educational materials and resources on cardiomyopathy for public awareness and distribute materials to schools, teachers, and parents. This would include an improved risk assessment for cardiomyopathy.

"All too often, otherwise healthy young people die tragically from sudden cardiac arrest – a silent killer that strikes too many students each year," said Congressman Pallone. "It's critical that we raise awareness about the causes of sudden cardiac arrest and ensure schools are more prepared to deal with cardiac emergencies so we can prevent these tragic deaths. I'm proud to introduce the HEARTS Act to take these much-needed measures to combat this devastating condition in young people."

The bill also calls for guidelines for the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. It also authorizes the CDC to conduct research and surveillance activities to better understand cardiomyopathy and encourages the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to expand, intensify, and coordinate research of the illness.

"Cardiomyopathy poses a real threat to tens of thousands of families across the United States, and it's a concern I've heard about from people in my district," said Congressman Kim. "I'm proud to work with Congressman Pallone and the advocates at the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation on this important topic and bring this issue to light."

About the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is a national organization focused on finding causes and cures for pediatric cardiomyopathy. The Foundation was established in 2002 to accelerate research and education, increase public awareness and advocacy, and offer support services to affected families. Since then, CCF has grown into a global community of families, physicians, and scientists, raising more than \$15 million in support of its mission. For more information on cardiomyopathy, visit www.children'scardiomyopathy.org.